

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

What proficiency looks like

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

703 KAR 5:020

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee requested the Office of Assessment and Accountability and the Office of Teaching and Learning to respond to the following questions:

1. To what extent are Kentucky students performing at grade level? Margaret Spellings in a recent *Education Week* defined “proficiency” as performing at grade level.
2. To what extent does ACT tell us about whether high school students are performing at grade level? Generally, it measures college readiness. How does college readiness compare with high school proficiency? (sub-question of No. 1.)

Proficiency is the academic goal for Kentucky students. Within the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System, multiple assessment measures report proficiency results:

1. Kentucky Core Content Test (KCCT)
2. EXPLORE
3. PLAN
4. ACT
5. Elementary norm-referenced test

Teachers from across the state have established what constitutes proficiency on the KCCT, through a standards-setting process approved by the National Technical Panel for Assessment and Accountability. The benchmarks established by the Kentucky Board of Education create the proficiency standard for the EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT. The context of the definition of proficiency will be more fully defined during the discussion.

In order to demonstrate what proficiency looks like in reading and mathematics at specific grade levels, staff will share samples of student responses for reading grades 4, 7, and 10 and mathematics grades 5, 8, and 11 at the December meeting (KCCT). Educational Planning Assessment System (EPAS) college readiness standards and benchmarks will be shared also.

Additionally, the context of the definition of proficiency will be more fully defined during the discussion.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

In order for students to reach proficiency, all stakeholders need to understand what constitutes proficient performance.

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